

COMMEMORATING THE HEROISM OF THE U.S. ARMY'S 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT BETTER KNOWN AS "THE BORINQUENEERS"

### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the celebration taking place in Osceola County, Florida, later this month. More specifically, on July 24, 2011, the Committee Desfile Puertorriqueno de Osceola, Inc., has chosen to dedicate the First Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade to commemorate the heroism of the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, better known as "The Borinqueneers."

I rise today to join them in this recognition as we come together to celebrate the Borinqueneers, their commitment to the liberties of the United States, and their specific military achievements on the front line of the battlefield in advancing the values upon which this nation was founded.

On March 2, 1899, Congress authorized the establishment of the Army unit that became known as the "The Borinqueneers," an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit. This brave unit was called upon to serve in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War and fought valiantly under the motto "Honor et Fidelitas," meaning Honor and Fidelity.

When "The Borinqueneers" were called to the front lines during the Korean War, General MacArthur said of the unit, "The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea . . . are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have more like them."

The Borinqueneers consistently demonstrated exceptional and unyielding valor on the battlefield despite the hardships they endured. As a unit, they earned a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. Individuals within the regiment were also awarded Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars and Bronze Stars.

I am honored to pay tribute to the service that "The Borinqueneers" have provided our nation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to pay tribute to these fine soldiers.

### TRIBUTE TO OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Operational Technologies (OpTech) on its 25th anniversary of providing business expansion opportunities and incredible employment sources for many San Antonians.

Founded by Max Navarro a quarter-century ago, OpTech has been committed to excellence and strives to provide scientific and technical solutions for global clients across a

range of service sectors. OpTech focuses on areas ranging from Supply Chain Management, Biotechnology, and Automotive Industry. OpTech has succeeded in exceeding client expectations and the achievement of outstanding corporate citizenship through its adherence to the highest levels of professional integrity.

From securing the defense contract to develop a nerve gas antidote or constructing an \$850 million state-of-the-art manufacturing plant to assemble the Toyota Tundra pick-up truck, OpTech has made great strides towards providing San Antonio a promising economic future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Operational Technologies on their continued success and contribution to San Antonio as a leading minority owned business.

### SUPPORT FOR A TWO-STATE SOLUTION

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for a two-state solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. I believe peace can be achieved only through negotiations between the parties. I believe, further, that these negotiations must be based upon mutual respect and upon the unequivocal commitment of each to the rights of the other, including the right to live in peace and security in a sovereign state. Because I believe this, I supported H. Res. 268. I did not, however, vote "yes" because I felt the resolution was likely to promote those ends. I voted in the affirmative because I could not take exception to its substance.

I oppose and I believe the United States should continue to oppose a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians, with a veto in the Security Council, if necessary. I believe that Hamas should accept the conditions set forth by the Quartet—the UN, the EU, the Russian Federation, as well as the United States—to renounce violence and acknowledge the right of Israel to exist. That said, I am not sure that it is helpful to the Palestinians, or to Arab governments in transition to democracy, to threaten suspending assistance to the Palestinian Authority as they seek to bring the West Bank and Gaza closer to a position from which negotiations with Israel could take place. If the resolution had called for the outright suspension of aid, rather than the consideration of its suspension, I would have had more difficulty supporting it. I would prefer, too, that the resolution had encouraged Israel to take positive steps, such as limiting settlement expansion, towards reconciliation with its neighbors.

I look forward to constructive U.S. engagement in real bargaining, not just in an interminable "peace process." I hope leaders in Israel and in Palestine will have the courage to present realistic options to their people, and I would like to see the United States foster serious diplomacy.

A TRIBUTE TO AARON D. SPRENGELER

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Aaron Daniel Sprengeler for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been rigorously maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Aaron's project was to oversee and construct stairs and a bridge at the McHose Park Disc Golf Course in Boone, Iowa. This project allowed Aaron to demonstrate both his organizational and leadership skills as he directed the trail's construction and design. Aaron's efforts not only improved the overall accessibility of the course, but also provided much needed safety improvements that disc golfers can now enjoy for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Aaron's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, during roll-call vote No. 518, the Sherman Amendment on H.R. 2219, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no".

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the FY2012 Defense Appropriations bill. I want to also thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for working together to craft this important bipartisan legislation.